

State Policy Focused on Violence Against Women in Uzbekistan

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ABSTRACT

The article analyzes the state policy in Uzbekistan aimed at preventing and combating violence against women. It highlights measures to support women legally, psychologically, and socially, as well as the activities of rehabilitation centers and the implementation of gender policy. In addition, the article explores the connection between this issue and the education sector, examining efforts to promote gender equality in schools and higher education institutions, and the protection of women's rights through education. An analytical approach is presented based on scientific analysis and statistical data.

Keywords: Women's Rights; Gender Equality; Education and Gender; Combating Violence; Rehabilitation; Legal Awareness; State Policy.

1. Introduction

It is well known that great attention is being paid to the field of social protection in our country. In particular, a number of legal documents have been developed to prevent and eliminate violence against women. Now, in Uzbekistan, a woman who has experienced violence will be able to divorce without a reconciliation period, if she so wishes. Specifically, on February 11, 2025, the Senate Committee on Youth, Women, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Uzbekistan discussed the draft law "On introducing amendments and additions to certain legislative acts in connection with the improvement of the system of support for families and women" [1]. A scientific approach is of great importance in gaining a deeper understanding of the efforts being made to combat violence against women. For instance, conducting precise statistical analysis based on the age, social status, and reasons for appeal of women who turn to rehabilitation centers can help determine the scale of this issue. For example, if it is determined how many of the 1,562 women who sought help in 2024 did so due to sexual violence, economic pressure, or psychological abuse, this would serve as a scientific basis for developing necessary preventive measures in different areas.

Furthermore, it is crucial to cultivate a sense of respect for gender equality and women's rights among the younger generation. In this regard, topics such as "Gender Culture," "Legal Awareness and Society," and "Fundamentals of Social Equality" can be integrated into the curricula of general education schools, academic lyceums and colleges, as well as higher education institutions. This will improve students' legal literacy and contribute to the reinforcement of gender equality principles in society.

In the higher education system, it is also possible to introduce special subjects or modules dedicated to gender equality, family relationships, violence prevention, and psychological assistance. In addition, regular training sessions, roundtable discussions, role-playing activities, and psychological consultations for male and female students can help develop skills for healthy and equitable social relationships. This knowledge will be especially useful for students in the fields of pedagogy and law in their future professional careers.

1.1. Study Objectives

This article aims to analyze the state policy in Uzbekistan regarding violence against women, focusing on prevention and support measures. The objectives include examining legal, psychological, and social measures to assist women, highlighting the role of rehabilitation centers, and exploring the connection between gender policy and education. It also investigates how promoting gender equality within schools and higher education institutions can protect women's rights and prevent violence. Statistical data and scientific analysis are used to provide a comprehensive understanding of these issues.

2. Discussion

One of the most pressing tasks in educational institutions is the formation of socially responsible individuals who deeply understand gender-related issues and are capable of addressing them. To achieve this, it is essential to provide future teachers at pedagogical higher education institutions with specialized training on protecting women's rights, identifying signs and consequences of violence, and taking appropriate action. In particular, school teachers should be trained to recognize early signs of psychological abuse in children, as in many cases, children directly witness their mothers suffering from domestic pressure. Early detection and resolution of such situations contribute to the development of a healthy social environment.

Moreover, among university students, it is advisable to introduce compulsory and elective courses on the foundations of a healthy family, marriage and family psychology, and communication culture in crisis situations. These courses will help not only female students, but also male students, to become responsible partners, learn to compromise in problematic situations, and adopt a culture of living based on equality within the family.

In addition, the topic of violence should not be limited to the academic curriculum alone. It is necessary to expand the activities of “Women’s Counseling Centers” and psychological support rooms operating under higher education institutions, and to introduce social services aimed at creating a trustworthy environment among female students. Regular open discussions, quizzes, and legal seminars on topics such as “My Gender Rights” and “Towards a Violence-Free Society” among students can make a significant contribution to preventive efforts in this area.

Enhancing women's economic independence through education is also a crucial factor. Increasing the number of courses related to modern technologies, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy in vocational schools, colleges, technical institutes, and higher education institutions helps women become economically empowered and capable of managing their lives independently. Such knowledge plays a decisive role in preventing economic violence.

Article 5 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. O'RQ-561 dated September 2, 2019, outlines the main directions of state policy in the field of protecting women from harassment and violence as follows:

- Developing and implementing gender policies, state programs, and strategies in the field of protecting women from harassment and violence;
- Creating an environment of zero tolerance in society toward harassment and violence against women;

- Ensuring the protection of women's rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests from harassment and violence;
- Raising legal awareness and legal culture in society, and strengthening the rule of law;
- Establishing effective organizational and legal mechanisms to prevent, detect, and eliminate harassment and violence against women;
- Taking measures to eliminate the causes and conditions that lead to harassment and violence against women;
- Ensuring cooperation among state bodies, self-governing bodies of citizens, non-governmental non-profit organizations, and other civil society institutions for the purpose of preventing harassment and violence.

In March 2025, a roundtable discussion was held in collaboration between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Uzbekistan to strengthen the legal response to gender-based violence. The activities of departments dealing with women's issues within the Commission on Gender Equality of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Internal Affairs have been expanded. "Hotlines" and "Women's Counseling Centers" have been established in local communities (mahallas).

At the same time, raising the legal literacy of women is of great importance in preventing the repeated occurrence of various forms of violence. The state is undertaking several important initiatives to support women's access to higher education in Uzbekistan. In particular, favorable opportunities have been created for female graduate students. According to Government Resolution No. 447, the contract fees of all women studying in master's programs at higher education institutions are fully covered by the state budget and are non-repayable [3]. Through recommendation letters, women also have the opportunity to participate in the competition for state grants. In line with Resolution No. 402 of the Cabinet of Ministers, recommendation letters are issued to women from low-income families, allowing them to compete for admission to higher education institutions on a state grant basis [4].

Such opportunities help improve women's literacy and also contribute to preventing potential economic violence against them. Indeed, educated and wise women know how to manage relationships and decision-making within the family. This also helps them understand how to act in situations involving violence.

3. Results

In Uzbekistan, amid the global financial and economic crisis, state policy is aimed at preventing a decline in living standards especially for women—by protecting them from the negative consequences of the financial crisis and ensuring a decent standard of living, which is considered the foundation of all human rights. The country has made significant progress in areas such as education, gender equality, healthcare, and other sectors, which are directly linked to the well-being of women.

Combating violence against women is one of the priority directions of state policy in Uzbekistan and is being carried out systematically. Legal reforms, the activities of rehabilitation and adaptation centers, and social services in local communities (mahallas) are offering effective solutions in this regard. At the same time, to fight the root causes of violence, it is essential to eliminate the contributing factors through education.

4. Conclusion

Promoting gender equality principles at all levels of education from schools to higher education institutions and fostering a culture of legal awareness and social responsibility among the younger generation can help prevent cases of violence against women. Additionally, strengthening the economic, legal, and psychological literacy of female students helps them adopt an active and independent position in life. Therefore, addressing this issue not only through social and legal measures but also through deep knowledge and enlightenment is the most effective path forward.

Proposal for Preventing Violence against Women:

Firstly, it is essential to prioritize the improvement of women's legal literacy starting from the school education system. This should not only involve providing theoretical knowledge but also focus on enabling women to practically apply their rights and protect themselves in real-life situations.

Secondly, I believe that more attention should be given to working with the perpetrators of violence rather than focusing solely on the victims. In many cases, women who experience violence are removed from their homes and placed in rehabilitation centers to receive support. However, it would be more just and effective if the perpetrator, rather than the victim, were removed from the home.

Furthermore, women who have experienced violence should be provided with social, psychological, and medical services in their own homes. Every woman feels more safe and secure in her own home, and providing support in a familiar environment can contribute significantly to her recovery.

Declarations

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Competing Interests Statement

The author has not declared any conflict of interest.

Consent for publication

The author declares that he/she consented to the publication of this study.

Authors' contributions

Author's independent contribution.

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